

David Aaron DeSoto

Mann Law Firm PLLC

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David Aaron DeSoto is a Senior Associate Attorney / Arbitrator / Mediator at Mann Law Firm PLLC. As a mediator, David has assisted hundreds of people in resolving their disputes in an extensive array of civil matters, including medical billing, property disputes, personal injury, probate, automobile accidents, commercial real estate, employment discrimination, commercial and residential repair, debt collection, divorce, child custody and visitation, and pre-divorce structured dissolution. As an arbitrator, David regularly presides over a diverse variety of complex matters, including taxation, consumer law, medical billing, and securities. David also sits as an Independent Hearing Officer for the Texas Workforce Commission, hearing cases involving the vocational rehabilitation and blind enterprises programs. He is a frequent speaker at continuing legal education seminars throughout Texas and has authored dozens of legal education articles on a multitude of topics, including bankruptcy, mediation, and arbitration. David is licensed to practice law in all Texas federal district courts, the United States Tax Court, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He is a certified mediator and has met the requirements of Chapter 154.052 (a) and (b) of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code and is credentialed as a Distinguished Mediator by the Texas Mediator Credentialing Association (TMCA). David is an active member of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section of the Houston Bar Association and the Texas Association of Mediators, regularly serves as a volunteer mediator with the Dispute Resolution Center (DRC) for Harris County, and also assists in educating, training, and mentoring new mediators.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Senior Associate Attorney / Mediator / Arbitrator, Mann Law Firm PLLC, 2012 - Present

Mediation practice encompasses civil suits ranging from complex mortgage disputes, breach of contract, and employment disputes to personal injury and family law matters. Arbitration practice includes regularly presiding over cases involving commercial transactions, medical billing, property tax appeals, securities, and consumer law. Serves as Independent Hearing Officer for the Texas Workforce Commission in matters involving the vocational rehabilitation and blind enterprises programs.

Former Senior Bankruptcy Associate, Mann & Stevens, P.C., 2006 - 2011

Represented institutional mortgage creditors in federal, state, and bankruptcy courts throughout Texas.

Former Associate Attorney, Law Offices of John Ventura, P.C., 2004 - 2006

Managed the firm's Corpus Christi office and handled adversary proceedings and special litigation for the Rio Grande Valley offices. In addition to bankruptcy matters, also represented clients in related state court and federal court proceedings, including personal injury mediations and suits brought under the DTPA and FRCA.

Former Staff Attorney, Office of the Chapter 13 Trustee, Austin, Texas, 2001 - 2004

Represented bankruptcy trustee in all contested matters and all dockets and conducted hundreds of meetings of creditors as a hearing officer.

Former Managing Attorney, Law Offices of David W. Kirk, P.C., 1996 - 2001

Managed two of the highest volume consumer debtor offices in San Antonio and Corpus Christi, Texas.

Former Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General of Texas, 1994 - 1996

Represented the State of Texas in interstate and international child support enforcement cases throughout Texas. Assisted in the development of the agency's policies and procedures for handling child support matters in bankruptcy court.

ADMISSIONS TO PRACTICE:

State of Texas, 1994

Federal Courts of the Western District of Texas, 1995

Federal Courts of the Southern District of Texas, 1997

United States Tax Court, 2005

Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, 2005

Federal Courts of the Eastern District of Texas, 2006

Federal Courts of the Northern District of Texas, 2006

MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION ACCREDITATIONS:

Credentialed Distinguished Mediator, Texas Mediation Credentialing Association, 2023

Certificate in International Arbitration, A.A. White Dispute Resolution Institute, 2018

Certified Family Law Mediator, Dispute Resolution Center of Harris County, 2014

Certified Mediator, Dispute Resolution Center of Harris County, 2013

MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION ROSTERS:

Arbitrator, American Arbitration Association consumer panel, 2021 - Present

Arbitrator, Virginia Bureau of Insurance roster for medical billing claims, 2021 - Present

Arbitrator, Texas Department of Insurance roster for medical billing claims, 2020 - Present

Independent Hearing Officer and Mediator, Texas Workforce Commission roster for Vocational Rehabilitation Appeals, 2020 - Present

Independent Hearing Officer and Mediator, Texas Workforce Commission roster for hearings under the Business Enterprises of Texas program, 2020 - Present

Arbitrator, National Futures Association, 2019 - Present

Arbitrator, Better Business Bureau of Greater Houston and South Texas, 2019 - Present

Mediator, State Office of Administrative Hearings, Balance Medical Billing, 2018 - Present

Mediator, Department of Insurance roster for TWIA claims, 2018 – Present
Arbitrator, Texas Comptroller’s Registry of Arbitrators, 2017 - Present
Arbitrator (Chair Qualified), Financial Regulatory Authority (FINRA), 2016 - Present
Alternative Dispute Resolution Provider, Southern District of Texas, 2014 - Present

EDUCATION:

J.D., Texas Tech University School of Law
B.A. in History, University of Texas at San Antonio
A.A. in History, San Antonio College

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

Member: College of the State Bar of Texas (Fellow); Phi Delta Phi; ADR Section of the Harris County Bar Association; Texas Association of Mediators; Bankruptcy Section of the State Bar of Texas; Texas Mediation Credentialing Association; National Association of Hearing Officials

NOTABLE CASES:

In re Herrera, 2010 WL 148182 (Bankr. W.D. Tex. 2010).
In re White, 2007 WL 4333279 (Bankr. N.D. Tex. 2007).
JP Morgan Chase Bank v. Gregory Polydore, 2007 WL 4146659 (E.D. Tex. 2007).
Polydore ex rel. Polydore v. JP Morgan Chase Bank, 2007 WL 1330648 (Tex. App. - Dallas 2007).
In re Hughes, 360 B.R. 202 (Bankr. N.D. Tex. 2007).
In re Lampman, 276 B.R. 182 (Bankr. W.D. Tex. 2002).
In re Lucio, 251 B.R. 705 (Bankr. W.D. Tex. 2000).

POSITIONS OF DISTINCTION:

Course Director, 26th Annual State Bar Advanced Consumer Bankruptcy Course (2010).
Planning Committee Member, 25th and 27th Annual State Bar Advanced Consumer Bankruptcy Courses (2009 and 2011).
Drafting Committee, Bankruptcy Local Rules for the Western District of Texas (2004).

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES:

Volunteer Mediator, Harris County Dispute Resolution Center, 2013 to Present
Mediator Trainer, Harris County Dispute Resolution Center, 2015 to Present
Mediator Trainer, Central Texas Dispute Resolution Center, 2023
Mentor, Moller/Foltz Bankruptcy Inns of Court Student Mentoring Program, 2014 to 2019
Volunteer, Houston Bar Association Veterans Legal Clinic, 2014 to Present
Judge, Jeffrey S. Abrams National Mediation Competition, 2016 to Present
Judge, Tom Newhouse National Mediation Competition, 2015 to Present
Judge, American Bar Association Arbitration Competition, 2020
State Bar of Texas Veteran’s History Project, 2012

LAW AND ADR RELATED PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCES:

Author of over three dozen continuing legal education conference papers, one law review article, and a half-dozen ADR conference papers and training guides. Moderator, panelist, and speaker at dozens of law and ADR conferences and mediation training events. List provided on request.